

Statistics Weekly

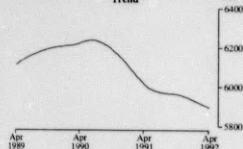
Thursday, 14 May 1992

The week in statistics ...

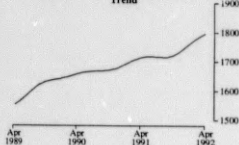
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Participation rate and female full-time employment fall

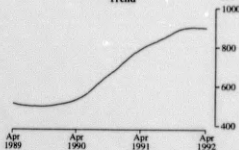
FULL-TIME EMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend



PART-TIME EMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend



A fall in the seasonally adjusted estimate of females employed full time was the main component of the decrease in employment in April 1992. The number of persons unemployed and the unemployment rate also fell slightly while the participation rate fell for the third consecutive month.

Employment

The April 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,672,300, a fall of 18,500 since March 1992. Full-time employment fell by 23,100, including a decrease of 19,600 in female full-time employment. Part-time employment was relatively steady, with an increase of 10,100 in female part-time employment offsetting a fall of 5,500 in male part-time employment. Trend estimates of total employment have changed little since December 1991. The falling trend in full-time employment has been broadly balanced by an increasing trend in part-time employment.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for April 1992 was 886,700, a fall of 13,300 since March 1992. Male unemployment was steady at 551,600. Female unemployment fell by 13,000 to 335,100, the main component being a fall of 13,800 in the number of females seeking part-time work. Trend estimates of total unemployment have been steady since January 1992.

The unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) for April 1992 was 10.4 per cent. For males, the unemployment rate was steady at 11.0 per cent, while the female unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 9.4 per cent. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate was 10.5 per cent, unchanged since January 1992.

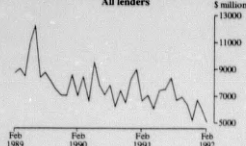
Participation rate

The labour force participation rate (seasonally adjusted) for April 1992 was 62.7 per cent compared with 63.0 per cent in March 1992. The male participation rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 74.2 per cent. For females, the rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 51.4 per cent, the lowest recorded since August 1989. The trend participation rate fell slightly to 62.9 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployed	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —				— per cent —	
1992 —						
January	5,963.3	1,754.7	7,717.9	894.1	10.4	63.3
February	5,919.7	1,785.7	7,705.5	907.8	10.5	63.2
March	5,903.1	1,787.6	7,690.7	900.1	10.5	63.0
April	5,880.0	1,792.3	7,672.3	886.7	10.4	62.7

COMMERCIAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS
All lenders



Commercial lending still down ...

Commercial finance commitments in February 1992 totalled \$5,038.6 million, down 15.3 per cent on January 1992 and down 23.6 per cent on February last year, giving the lowest monthly level of commitments since November 1986.

Commitments under fixed loan facilities were down 2.8 per cent while new and increased credit limits under revolving credit facilities were down 21.6 per cent.

COMMERCIAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, FEBRUARY 1992
Percentage change

Purpose of commitment	\$ million	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Fixed loans	1,945.0	-2.8	-21.4
Revolving credit	3,093.5	-21.6	-24.9
Total	5,038.6	-15.3	-23.6

The monthly change was affected to some extent by the fact that January was a five-week reporting period for some banks. Both February 1992 and February 1991 were four-week reporting periods.

The major reason for the overall decrease in lending was the relatively large fall (30.3%) in bank lending under revolving credit facilities.

... while consumer finance picks up

Total new personal finance commitments for February 1992 totalled \$1,493.3 million, up 3.7 per cent on January 1992. This increase reversed the downward trend evident in the last three months, and put total commitments slightly (3.4%) above those in February last year.

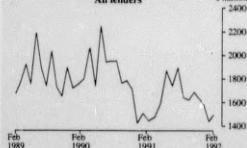
By purpose of commitment, the major movements in fixed loan facilities were in loans for the purchase of individual residential blocks of land, up 37.3 per cent, while loans for used motor vehicles were down 7.5 per cent. Re-financing rose by 8.6 per cent.

Credit limits under revolving credit facilities at the end of February totalled \$28,454.1 million, of which 46.9 per cent was used, compared with 46.1 per cent this time last year.

PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS, FEBRUARY 1992
Percentage change

Purpose of commitment	\$ million	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Fixed loans	1,014.8	2.4	7.3
Revolving credit	478.5	6.5	-4.0
Total	1,493.3	3.7	3.4

PERSONAL FINANCE COMMITMENTS
All lenders



Victorian women in the workforce

A Victorian survey in October 1991, *Work Patterns of Women*, has found that about two-thirds (66.5%) of Victorian women employed in Australia at some time since 1975 have had a break from employment since that time. This represents a total of 776,300 women. A break from employment was defined as a period of three months or more away from employment.

Of those women who reported having one or more breaks from employment since 1975, the most common reasons reported for the most recent breaks were birth of child (40.5%) and care of child/other person (22.6%).

About two-thirds (66.1%) of women who reported 'birth of child' as a reason for taking their most recent break from employment, resigned from their job at that time. Only about one-quarter (25.9%) took maternity leave. Of the women who resigned, 58.6 per cent became employed again after their break.

Of the women currently employed, 47.3 per cent, or 372,700 women, reported having no breaks from employment since 1975. Women currently employed as managers and administrators are highest amongst those reporting no breaks (56.9%). This compares with 40.7 per cent and 41.7 per cent of professionals and para-professionals respectively reporting no breaks from employment since 1975.

VICTORIAN WOMEN, 1975 TO OCTOBER 1991
Thousands

Employment status	No breaks in employment	Breaks in employment	Total
Employed	372.7	414.5	787.2
Unemployed	3.8	49.5	53.3
Not in the labour force	15.4	312.4	327.7
Total	391.9	776.3	1,168.2

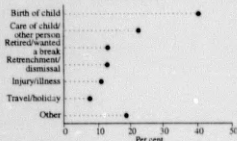
An analysis of women employed in the public and private sectors showed 57.8 per cent and 50.9 per cent respectively reported having one or more breaks from employment since 1975.

For the most recent break the main activity during this time was caring for, or birth of children (44.2%), followed by household work (22.2%). The main source of income reported for this break was spouse/partner (66.0%).

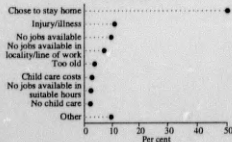
Just under one-third (31.2%) of women reported difficulties on returning to employment after the most recent break. The main difficulties were balancing family responsibilities and the job (17.3%) followed by child care arrangements (9.2%).

Among women who had not returned to work after their most recent break, more than half (51.8%) reported choosing to stay at home as the main reason for not returning.

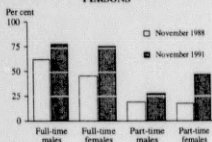
REASON FOR MOST RECENT BREAK IN EMPLOYMENT



REASONS FOR NOT RETURNING TO EMPLOYMENT



SUPERANNUATION COVERAGE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS



Superannuation: sharp rise in level of coverage

Superannuation coverage for employed persons rose to 71 per cent in November 1991 from 51 per cent in November 1988.

Results from a household survey of superannuation in November 1991 showed that 5,480,200 persons aged 15 to 74 were covered by a superannuation scheme.

Coverage is strongly related to whether people are employed full-time or part-time (see table below). Some 85 per cent of full-time employees were covered by superannuation, compared with 50 per cent of part-time employees.

SUPERANNUATION COVERAGE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, NOVEMBER 1991
Per cent

Status of worker	Full-time			Part-time		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Employers	58	41	54	43	37	39
Self-employed	48	26	44	20	20	20
Employees	86	83	84	33	54	50
All workers	80	77	79	29	48	44

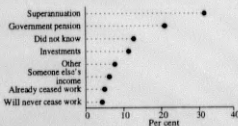
Wage and salary earners reported a superannuation coverage rate of 78 per cent. In comparison, 52 per cent of employers and 37 per cent of persons self-employed were contributing to a superannuation scheme.

In terms of industries, wage and salary earners in the communication industry had the highest level of superannuation coverage for full-time (98%) and for part-time workers (66%), while the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry full-time (69%) and part-time workers (29%), had the lowest levels of coverage.

Superannuation was expected to be the main source of income after retirement for one-third of employees aged 45 to 74 years covered by superannuation (see graph at left). A further 23 per cent expected a government pension to be their main source of income and 13 per cent did not know what their main source of income would be.

For further information, order the publication *Superannuation, Australia* (6319.0), or contact Mark Patton on (06) 252 7204.

EXPECTED MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME AFTER CEASING FULL-TIME WORK
November 1991



Overseas visitors in brief ...

There were 706,600 short-term overseas visitor arrivals to Australia in December quarter 1991, an increase of 10 per cent compared with December quarter 1990 (642,300). The main source countries for visitor arrivals in December quarter 1991 were: Japan 153,400 (23% more than December quarter 1990), New Zealand 123,800 (11% more), the United Kingdom 89,000 (6% less) and the United States of America 66,300 (4% less). These four countries accounted for 61 per cent of the total visitor arrivals compared with 62 per cent in December quarter 1990.

Source: *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, December Quarter 1991* (3402.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
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- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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All the week's releases: 6 to 12 May

General

- Publications Issued in April 1992 (1102.0; \$6.00)
- Publications Advice, 8 May 1992 (1105.0; free)
- Publications Advice, 12 May 1992 (1105.0; free)
- Statistics Weekly, 7 May 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)

Demography

- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., December Qtr 1991 (3402.0; \$14.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, March 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)
- Commercial Finance, Aust., February 1992 (5643.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., April 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, April 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., April 1992 (6410.0; \$5.50)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., March 1992 (6415.0; \$10.50)
- Work Patterns of Women, Victoria, October 1991 (6204.2; \$14.00) — *new issue*
- Labour Force, SA, February 1992 (6201.4; \$16.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, February 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, February 1992 (8358.0; \$10.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, February 1992 (8360.0; \$10.50)
- Housing Intentions, Preferences and Attitudes, Queensland, October 1991 (8710.3; \$8.00) — *new issue*
- Building Approvals, Qld, March 1992 (8731.3; \$10.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, December 1991 (8741.3; \$10.50)

Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., March 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 26 May 1992

May

- 14** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, March 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
Retail Trade, Australia, March 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- 18** Export Price Index, Australia, March 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 21** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1993, March Quarter 1992 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$10.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, March 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 22** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, March 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
- 26** Manufacturing Production, Australia, April 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, April 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
12 May 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Dec. qtr 91)*	-25.6	-17.7	-10.8	-3.6	1.1	-51.4	n.a.	n.a.	-17.4
Retail turnover (Feb. 92) (trend estimate)	4.5	2.2	5.3	-1.1	8.2	3.6	n.a.	9.4	4.2
New motor vehicle registrations (Mar. 92)†	11.4	32.1	29.5	1.5	26.8	10.3	36.4	-9.3	19.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Mar. 92)	32.7	51.7	31.1	-8.1	60.3	29.1	23.3	846.5	37.2
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 91)	-25.5	-25.4	4.4	-29.6	-12.9	3.4	4.3	3.4	-18.5
Employed persons (Apr. 92)*	-0.8	-2.1	2.4	-3.3	0.9	-3.3	6.0	-2.9	-0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Nov. 91)	4.7	4.1	3.0	5.3	4.3	3.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Dec. qtr 91)	3.2	3.6	10.1	-2.6	8.3	3.6	2.8	2.9	5.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 12 May 1992

			Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
				Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production							
Gross domestic product (A)	— 1984-85 prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91	n.a.	64,075	0.3	-0.5
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91	6,253	5,696	-12.6	-17.7
	— 1984-85 prices			4,921	4,487	-11.4	-14.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to June 92	11,732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices (e)	"	Feb. 92	7,128	7,827	-0.3	3.9
	— 1984-85 prices (e)	"	Dec. qtr 91	17,320	15,356	-0.8	1.0
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	Mar. 92	51,233	48,862	9.3	19.2
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Mar. 92	13,409	12,707	6.9	24.2
Value of all building approvals		\$m		1,796	1,722	-1.6	5.2
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	5,977.4	5,675.6	-3.6	-18.5
	— 1984-85 prices	"		3,846.5	3,632.1	-3.9	-16.8
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	36,551	34,813	-0.9	-3.4
	— 1984-85 prices	"		25,418	24,215	-1.0	-2.8
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to June 92	69,535	n.a.	n.a.	-3.2
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Apr. 92	7,696.4	7,672.3	-0.2	-0.7
Unemployment rate †		%	"	10.6	10.4	-0.1	0.7
Participation rate †		"	"	63.0	62.7	-0.3	-0.9
Job vacancies		'000	Feb. 92	27.6	26.6	3.1	-4.5
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.10	1.12	5.7	-6.3
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1989-90 = 100.0		Mar. qtr 92	107.6	n.a.	0.0	1.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0		Feb. 92	120.9	n.a.	0.0	-0.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0		Feb. 92	111.6	n.a.	0.0	0.3
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Nov. 91	578.80	n.a.	2.0	4.2
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †		% per annum	Feb. 92	7.50	n.a.	-0.05	-4.15
10-year Treasury bonds †		"		10.00	n.a.	-0.10	-1.55
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Mar. 92	4,712	4,745	2.0	6.1
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,349	4,317	3.3	9.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	363	428	-9.7	-21.5
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	250	231	-40.6	-30.2
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-1,022	-938	-50.1	0.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Dec. qtr 91	n.a.	97.1	-2.9	-4.5
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	31 Dec. 91	144,772	n.a.	2.7	7.6
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	194,273	n.a.	4.3	10.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US	per \$A		Mar. 92	0.7588	n.a.	0.9	-1.7
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	58.6	n.a.	4.3	0.7
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)		million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals		'000	Feb. 92	238	209	1.7	17.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 14 May 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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